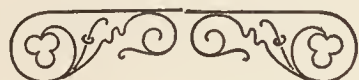


RAWMARSH
LOCAL BOARD.



THE MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1894,

BY

JAMES PICKEN, M.B., C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.

ROTHERHAM:

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Annual Report for 1894.



To the Chairman and Members of the Rawmarsh Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

The most important and satisfactory feature of the Report I have to present to you for the year 1894, is the low death rate of 15·49 per 1000 inhabitants which is a decrease of 6·04 as compared with the previous year and is one of the lowest death rates recorded for the Parish since its constitution as an Urban Sanitary District. I should be very pleased to be able to state that this is due to improved sanitation, but an exceptionally low death rate for one year does not justify me in forming such an opinion. While the good Sanitary work done in past years must have had its effect, still as compared with 1893 the reduction may be accounted for to a large extent by the diminished birth rate, the comparative absence of certain Zymotic diseases and the mild climatic conditions of 1894, which was mostly free from extremes of heat and cold.

Building operations continued unusually active during the year, and chiefly in the Rawmarsh part of the township as in 1893. Forty-eight dwelling-houses were erected, 30 in Rawmarsh and 18 in Parkgate, as compared with 25 and 20 respectively during the previous year.

The estimated population is 12,845.

HOUSES, POPULATION, &c.

	RAWMARSH	PARKGATE	WHOLE PARISH.
Acreage, 1891			2549
Acreage, 1894			2549
Number of Houses built and occupied during 1894	30	18	48
Number of Houses at the end of 1894	1044	1412	2456
Population at Census 1891	4907	7076	11983
Population estimated to middle of 1894	5160	7425	12585
Population estimated to middle of 1895	5315	7530	12845

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

Four hundred and seventy-three births, (247 males and 226 females) were registered during the year, being 96 less than in 1893, and giving a birth-rate of 37·58 per thousand inhabitants against 46·07 for 1893.

TABLE I.

Showing the births and birth-rate for the year for each district and for the whole parish.

DISTRICT.	POPULATION.	BIRTHS.			Birth Rate per 1000 per Annum
		MALES.	FEMALES	TOTAL.	
Rawmarsh ...	5160	79	92	171	33·13
Parkgate ...	7425	168	134	302	40·67
Whole parish	12585	247	226	473	37·58

TABLE II.

Showing the births and birth-rate for the Parish for each quarter, and for the whole year.

QUARTER.					BIRTHS.	BIRTH RATE PER 1000 PER ANNUM.
First quarter	..	..	...	...	116	36·86
Second	„	...	...	...	141	44·81
Third	„	...	...	...	95	30·19
Fourth	„	...	...	..	121	38·45
Whole year	...	...	...	...	473	37·58

DEATHS.

One hundred and ninety-five deaths, (103 males and 92 females) were registered during the year, being 71 less than in 1893, and giving a death rate of 15·49 per 1000 inhabitants against 21·53 for 1893.

There is a large decrease in the mortality of infants under 1 year. Seventy-one were registered, against 106 during the previous year, giving an infant mortality of 5·64 per 1000 inhabitants, and equal to 150 per 1000 births registered against 186 for 1893. One hundred and eight died under 5 years of age, 51 less than during the previous year, and giving a death rate of 8·58 per 1000 inhabitants, equal to 55 per cent. of the total number of deaths, against 59 per cent. recorded for 1893.

Thirty-one deaths were registered of persons aged 65 and upwards. The aggregate ages of 24 of those aged 70 and upwards, amounted to 1839 years, giving an average of nearly 77 years.

The mortality from Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy is 2·7 per 1000 inhabitants, against 3·4 for the previous year. Nineteen deaths are referred to Bronchitis, and 15 to Pneumonia, against 26 and 17 respectively for 1893. Sixteen children under 5 years died of the one disease and 10 of the other, a decrease of 4 and 1 respectively as compared with the previous year.

The Phthisis death rate for the year is 1·1 per 1000 inhabitants, against 1·2 for 1893.

There is a large reduction in the number of deaths from the principal Zymotic diseases, 29 being recorded, against 59 for 1893, and giving a Zymotic death rate of 2·3 per 1000 inhabitants, against 4·77 for the previous year. The fall in this rate is due to the diminished number of deaths referred to Whooping Cough and Diarrhoea.

The lowest quarterly death rate 12·71 per 1000 inhabitants, occurred in the last quarter of the year, when it is generally high. The weather was exceptionally mild for that season but although "unseasonable" it was the reverse of unhealthy, and in this instance belied the old proverb that "A green Christmas makes a fat church-yard."

TABLE III.

The following tabular statement shows the Zymotic Diseases referred to, and the number of deaths, and rates of mortality caused by them in each district during the years 1893 and 1894.

	1893.			1894.		
	Raw-marsh.	Park-gate.	Whole Parish	Raw-marsh.	Park-gate.	Whole Parish
Cholera	1	—	1	—	—	—
Small Pox,.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlatina	1	—	1	5	3	8
Measles	1	3	4	—	2	2
Diphtheria	1	1	2	—	2	2
Croup... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough...	1	17	18	2	3	5
Typhoid Fever.....	3	2	5	3	—	3
Diarrhœa	14	14	28	2	7	9
Total	22	37	59	12	17	29
Zymotic death rate per 1000 per ann..	4·36	5·05	4·77	2·32	2·28	2·3

TABLE IV.

Showing the Deaths and Death-rate for the year for each District and for the whole Parish.

DISTRICT.	POPULATION.	DEATHS.			DEATH RATE PER 1000 PER ANNUM.
		MALES.	F' MALS	TOT'LS	
Rawmarsh	5160	41	40	81	15·69
Parkgate	7425	62	52	114	15·35
Whole Parish ...	12585	103	92	195	15·49

TABLE V.

Showing the Deaths and Death-rate for the Parish for each quarter, and for the whole year.

QUARTER.	DEATHS.	DEATH-RATE PER 1000 PER ANNUM.
First Quarter	61	19·38
Second „	45	14·30
Third „	49	15·57
Fourth „	40	12·71
Whole year	195	15·49

TABLE VI.

Showing the Diseases to which the 195 Deaths are attributed, the district in which they occurred, and the number referred to each Disease.

DISEASES.	Raw-marsh.	Parkgate	Whole Parish.
Small-pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	5	3	8
Diphtheria	—	2	2
Croup	—	—	—
FEVERS | Typhus	—	—	—
| Typhoid	3	—	3
| Puerperal	1	1	2
Cholera	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Measles	—	2	2
Whooping Cough	2	3	5
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	2	7	9
Rheumatic Fever	—	—	—
Ague	—	—	—
Phthisis	5	9	14
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and	19	16	35
Heart Disease [Pleurisy	4	1	5
Injuries	1	1	2
All other Diseases	39	69	108
Influenza	—	—	—
Total	81	114	195

TABLE VII.

Showing the age at which the 195 Deaths occurred.

	Rawmarsh.	Parkgate.	Whole Parish.
Under 1 Year	26	45	71
1 and under 5	15	22	37
5 ,, 15	2	3	5
15 ,, 25	4	9	13
25 ,, 65	16	22	38
65 and upwards	18	13	31
Total	81	114	195

TABLE VIII.

Showing the Monthly Mortality.

	Total Deaths.				Zymotic Diseases.		Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy.		Phthisis.
	Under 5 years.	5 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.	Total.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	
January	17	11	4	32	3	1	4	2	1
February ..	14	2	2	18	3	0	7	1	0
March	4	1	6	11	1	0	0	0	1
April	10	6	0	16	0	2	2	2	1
May	8	5	2	15	2	1	1	2	1
June	7	4	3	14	1	0	1	1	1
July	5	6	1	12	1	2	0	0	1
August	9	8	3	20	5	0	0	0	4
September...	7	4	6	17	2	1	0	0	1
October	8	2	1	11	2	0	3	0	0
November ...	9	6	0	15	1	0	2	1	3
December ..	10	1	3	14	1	0	6	0	0
Total	108	56	31	195	22	7	26	9	14

TABLE IX

Showing the natural increase in the population by Births over Deaths.

	Rawmarsh	Parkgate.	Whole Parish
Births	171	302	473
Deaths	81	114	195
Increase.....	90	188	278

SICKNESS.

SCARLET FEVER.—Scarlet Fever occurred sporadically during 1893. Cases were reported during every month of 1894. Some of them were traceable to communications with infected houses, but the origin of others was unknown. None were reported from Rawmarsh till May and 28 of 36 in the first half of the year were at Parkgate, while 29 of 36 in the second half were at Rawmarsh. As the numbers increased at Rawmarsh they diminished at Parkgate, and not only were they equally divided between the two halves of the year, but nearly an equal number occurred in each District. Seventy-two were reported in 47 houses and two of them were removed to the Hospital. Eight deaths were referred to this disease.

MEASLES.—There was a slight outbreak of Measles at Parkgate at the end of April. All the children attacked attended the Infant Department of the Ashwood Road Board School and they were most probably caused by the presence at school of some child who had been returned too soon after the disappearance of the rash. The closing of the schools at the Whitsuntide holidays seemed to prevent it from spreading. It appeared again both at Rawmarsh and Parkgate in the middle of November and continued throughout December, but the cases were not very numerous. Two deaths are attributed to it.

WHOOPING COUGH.—An epidemic of this disease which caused 18 deaths in 1893, was continued into 1894. The cases began to get less numerous in January, and gradually diminished till they disappeared in March. It became slightly prevalent again in August. Five deaths were due to it.

DIARRHŒA.—Diarrhœa was prevalent during the second half of June, and slightly so in August. Nine deaths were referred to it, and seven of these were of children under five years of age.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Isolated cases of enteric fever occurred in different parts of the parish in every month of the year, except April and November. Three were reported in May, one each in February and March, five in May, one in June, three in July, two each in August and September, and one in December. Careful inquiries were made in each case but with the exception of one house where there were three cases, no local cause could be discovered. The drain of the house referred to was taken up and found to be choked, the sewage having percolated entirely away through defective joints into made ground on which the house was built. The total number reported for the year is 21 in 17 houses, and three of them died. One sufferer was removed to the Hospital and died there.

INFLUENZA.—Influenza which had again broken out in November, 1893, declined in the first half of January, 1894, but increased in the second half. It gradually became less prevalent and disappeared in the early part of March. In the middle of November, a great many children all over the parish suddenly became ill, the symptoms being a rapid rise of temperature, mostly accompanied with Bronchitis, and in some cases Pneumonia. Recovery with the disappearance of the Catarrhal symptoms was unusually rapid. In many houses several children were thus siezed one after another. The epidemic continued for a month and ended as suddenly as it began. At first I doubted whether this was really Influenza, as the parish was visited by an apparently similar epidemic some years ago before the advent of Influenza, but the fact that in a considerable number of houses adults began to suffer from the unmistakable symptoms of Influenza soon after the children were seized left little doubt as to the true nature of the children's attacks. No deaths were directly referred to Influenza.

DIPHTHERIA.—Typical Diphtheria is only rarely seen in this parish. Three cases were reported during the year and two of them proved fatal.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply was constant during the year.

Annual Report of SANITARY INSPECTOR

Rawmarsh Urban District Council, 1894.

MR. CHAIRMAN & GENTLEMEN,

During the year 1894 I have reported to the Sanitary Committee at their Monthly Meetings that notices have been served for the abatement of the following nuisances :—

	Notices.
Defective and Choked Drains	50
„ Privies Ashpits and Urinals	41
„ Sinks and Sink Pipes	8
„ Roofs and Spouting	9
„ W.C's.	4
Repairs to Dwelling-houses	4
Remove Offensive Accumulations .	4
To drain Surface Water from Yard Areas	2
To remove Stagnant Water from Cellars	2
To cease keeping Pigs so as to be a nuisance	1
To fill up disused wells dangerous to health	3
To drain Stable	2
For overcrowding	2

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All of which are being complied with or promised attention.

Rubble Drains which were used for Surface Water in Broad Street have been taken out or blocked, consequent of complaint of bad smells into cellars; also flooding of said cellars in rainy weather.

Defective drains have been examined in Rawmarsh Hill and proper junctions put in where pipes “with Holes” for connection had been made previously.

The lower part of Church Street property has been redrained with Earthenware Sanitary Pipes, also defective brick drain at Upper Haugh has been replaced with Sanitary Pipes.

The subsidence of land at Little Bridge still continues. Sewage was pumped at the old Filter Beds from July 20th to Nov. 27th, when flood water from the river over-powered the Pump. Since which date no pumping has taken place, consequently the fields are covered to some depth with water from Little Bridge Brick Pond to M. S. & L. Railway.

The drains of Midland Station have been relaid to sewer, with interceptor and inspection chambers properly ventilated. This was done in consequence of repeated attacks of Typhoid Fever at the Station dwelling-house, on examination the drain was found choked full of solids, but the water had escaped in the "made ground" from Broken Pipes and bad joints, never shewing itself on surface.

COWSHED AND DAIRIES' ACT.

Two purveyors of Milk have been registered during the year. One cowkeeper has removed, leaving now on register 21 cowkeepers and purveyors of milk.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

One new slaughter-house has been registered during the year; whilst one has been given up, leaving 17 Registered Slaughter-houses in your district.

I have visited at intervals, and served Notices for Removal of Refuse when required.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There has been notified:—

72 cases of Scarlet Fever in 52 Houses.			
21	„	„ Typhoid	„ 17 „
3	„	„ Diphtheria	„ 3 „
<hr/>			
96	„	„	„ 72 „
<hr/>			
2	„	„ Scarlet Fever	
1	„	„ Typhoid „	
<hr/>			

Total 3 cases have been removed to your Infectious Hospital.

Bedding has been destroyed and compensation paid in one case of Typhoid Fever.

Fifteen houses have been Fumigated in 1894.

The Convalescent Wards at the Hospital have been varnished inside.

FOOD ANALYSIS.

Two samples of Water have been submitted to the County Analyst, Mr. Allen, and both were pronounced unsafe for drinking purposes.

REFUSE REMOVAL.

There has been removed during 1894:—

4817	Loads of Nightsoil	.....	from 1910 Middens
440	„ „ Ashes and Refuse	.....	„ 313 Ashpits
502	„ „ Rubbish from Streets and Shops	—	
<hr/>			
5759	Loads.....	.....	from 2223 Ashpits

and Middens in 275 days at a cost of £494 12s. 0d. for labour, which is equal to a cost of $1/7\frac{3}{4}$ per load removed. This is 353 Loads less than last year's removal, but 162 more Ashpits have have been cleansed than in 1893.

The trenching of land at Rectory Field and Boat Yard cost, this year, £17 1s. 6d., against £17 15s. 5d. for last year. There is also a reduction of £1 0s. 3d. in the cost of Refuse Removal for labour in 1894 over 1893.

VISITATION.

I have visited the yards and premises of 8493 houses during the year, accompanied when required by the Medical Officer of Health.

I respectfully urge the attention of the Council, as soon as is possible, to have Peashill Street Sewage connected to the Ryecroft Sewer, so that the existing objectionable cesspool may be done away with.

Also Dilk's Building and Little Bridge Sewer outfull part of the New Sewage Scheme be put in operation as early as is possible ; if we have a warm summer we may have very serious consequences from the present unhealthy conditions.

I again ask the Council, when passing plans, to require uniformity in size of ashpits, also that they are easy of access for cleansing purposes, as increased cost is put on this department by neglect of such precaution.

In regard to Paving and Asphalting of yards, wherever it has been possible by persuasion, I have secured the same, but this work would be more easily secured by new Bye-laws in accord with recent sanitary legislation. our present Bye-laws being passed in 1869, and which are difficult of application to present day requirement.

JAMES WHITEHEAD,

Sanitary Inspector.

I have regularly attended the Sanitary Committee or Monthly Board Meetings, and read reports on the birth rate, mortality and general health of the Parish.

I have inspected the District often accompanied by the Sanitary Inspector. Visits were systematically made to houses in which infectious disease existed, inquiries made as to the circumstances associated with the disease, instructions given with a view to prevent its spreading and sanitary defects noted for future action. I have also inspected with Mr. Whitehead, the three workshops in the Parish which come under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1891, and found them in very

fair sanitary condition. Alterations suggested in one case were well received and willingly carried out. Under section 30 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, I reported three houses in Turner Street as unfit for human habitation owing to the cracked and leaky state of their walls. The houses were promptly repaired and made habitable.

Monthly returns of the diseases prevalent in the District were sent to the Medical Officer of Health to the County Council. I have not had occasion to present any special report during the year.

The houses erected during the year were nearly all of the ordinary cottage class. The remarks I made in my report for 1892 about the inspection of all drains, their disconnection from the main sewer in some cases, the absence of an up cast shaft for their ventilation, the condition of the new backyards, and the improper ventilation of ashpits apply to houses erected in 1894. Twenty-one W.C.'s were erected and 6 of these replaced privies.

New Street, Infirmary Road, Peashill Lane and Rycroft remain in the same disgraceful condition, as I have reported for several years, although, I believe you long ago decided to compel the making of these streets, and had plans for Rycroft under your consideration.

The condition of the outlet at the Parkgate Main Sewer also remains as it was a year ago, only the water in the lake into which the sewage discharges is now practically all sewage. An attempt was made to partly remedy this state of matters by means of a pump at the old filter beds, but the overflow of water from the river proved to much for the experiment. Hundreds have been skating on the pond during the past few weeks. I was present at an immersion, and I can testify that when one accidentally falls in these, death by drowning is only a secondary consideration. Such an obvious and serious danger to the health of the inhabitants as the existence of this pond, into which the sewage from 8000 people has been discharging for more than a year, ought to be the first thing dealt with, if at all possible, in carrying out your new sewage scheme. This also applies to the sewer for Dilk's Buildings, which has been a source of much trouble, and caused me some time ago, to report several houses as unfit for habitation. The junction of the Peas Hill Lane Sewer with the Rycroft Sewer—as a part of your Sewage Scheme—should also be seen to as soon as practicable, as the present cesspool is most objectionable, has often been complained of, and I have little doubt has been the cause of disease in that street.

The street sewers still remain unventilated. I have been led to believe that the resolution to have them ventilated has not been carried out, as the cost was to be included in the sewage scheme. Lately I have been informed that no provision has been made for this work in that scheme.

The removal of nightsoil and rubbish by your own men under the supervision of Mr. Whitehead continues to be carried out most efficiently and to the satisfaction of householders. I think you have reason to be as satisfied with the economy as with the efficiency of this method in preference to the old contract system, which I hope you have permanently abandoned.

I have again to ask your serious consideration of the following recommendations, which have been made in previous reports :—

- 1st.—The adoption of stringent bye-laws regulating the deposit and removal of manure, offal, &c., from slaughter-houses, or the erection of a public slaughter-house.

Under the most constant and efficient official supervision it is almost impossible to keep private slaughter houses unobjectionable in warm weather, if there are dwelling houses near. I would draw your attention to the fact that one half of the slaughter houses in the Parish are congregated in a comparatively small area near the principal street, and in summer weather. not only are those living near them constantly conscious of their existence, but people walking along the streets have often unpleasant reminders of their vicinity. There is also increased difficulty in inspecting meat, and greater likelihood of its exposure to foul exhalations in private slaughter houses.

- 2nd.—The erection of a Destructor or other efficient provision for the disposal of night soil and rubbish.

- 3rd.—The adoption of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.

- 4th.—The adoption of the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

- 5th.—The adoption of a new code of General Bye-laws, and of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890.

I must continue seriously to remind you of the importance of these two subjects, as next to the proper disposal of Sewage, they are more intimately connected with the health and comfort of the inhabitants than any others you can consider. Your present Bye-laws were adopted 25 years ago, and since then sanitary science and legislation have made such strides that they are now practically useless for enforcing in the erection of new buildings and their environments, the sanitary principles local authorities are now reasonably expected to carry out. To give a few examples - they allow ventilation of the main sewers in the old fashioned way by rain water pipes whose outlets are often near bed-room windows; they do not compel disconnection of house drains from main sewers; they do not provide anything like sufficient privy accommodation; they recommend ashpits of 80 cubic feet of space beneath the ground level, and thus encourage foul percolation into the surrounding soil; there is nothing in them about a damp-proof course in the walls of houses, nor any adequate provision to prevent damp from the heavy wet clay sub-soil, common in the district, entering rooms from underneath the floors; no provision for the cleanliness and healthiness of new backyards; there is no clause forbidding the erection of houses on objectionable sites, as for example, on made ground, filled in it may be, with night-soil and other objectionable materials; and they are so modest in their demands generally, that houses are built which I think I am justified in describing by the well-known and expressive word "jerry."

Accompanying this report are Forms K²³ (A) and K²¹¹ (B), duly filled up in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board, and Table C provided by the Medical Officer of the County Council.

JAMES PICKEN, M.B., C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Parkgate, Feb. 20th, 1895.